

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-8 have been canceled and Claims 9-11 have been added by the present amendment.

This application is a divisional application of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/813,991 filed on March 22, 2001.

New Claims 9-11 are similar to the allowed independent Claims 1, 7 and 9 in the parent application, respectively, except that new Claims 9-11 do not include the coordinate detection unit/means feature which detects the coordinate value of a position where the light beams are interrupted based on the intensity distributions. That is, in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the parent application, the Examiner indicated one of the novel features of the parent application is a plurality of filters disposed in respective second optical paths, which are optical paths through which the respective light beams reflected by the reflective member travel to reach the respective intensity distribution detection units, and where the filters have transmission rates varying with respect to positions within said filters. It is respectfully submitted new Claims 9-11 are allowable. These same features are included in the new Claims 9-11.

Further, the specification has been amended to include a reference to the parent application.

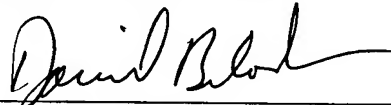
Attorney Docket No. 241780US-2 DIV . . .
Inventor: Takahiro Ito

Accordingly, it is believed the subject matter recited in new Claims 9-11 without the coordinate detection unit/means is still allowable as it includes the allowable feature noted in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the parent application.

Consequently, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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